

Excerpts from 1905 Travel Diary of Otilie Mueller

In 1976, shortly before my son, Harold E., and I left for a visit to Germany, I skimmed through Aunt Tillie's travel notes from her 1905 trip to Germany, and made the following excerpts. Since we hoped to see the German relatives, I wanted to see what Aunt Tillie had written about them. I have added some punctuation, but for the most part, I have left the words as they were written by Tillie. The diary is written mostly in English, but in places, German text and script are used.

May, 1905, we left for Germany....

Sat., May 6/05, Left Galveston at 4 o'clock in afternoon....

May 25, we arose at 4 o'clock and prepared ourselves for the landing. Arrived at B.h. [=Bremerhaven] 8 o'clock... we took train to Eisenach... reaching E. 8:30. Took a hack for Stedtfeld....

May 28, Cousin Adolph & family came to see us....

June 3. Us four made our first to trip Eisenach [sic]....

June 9. Otto birthday I gave him Photo frame, mama a tie.

10. Uncle Aunt & I went to E. mama stayed home....

13. We all in a rig to Wünschensuhl. Visit mama's old home, church cemetery and met a number of relatives....

July 4. Aunt, mama & I left for Berlin.

5. Left for Charlottenburg. Found our cousins, who were indeed very agreeable. Took dinner at cousin Henry....

July 7. left 11:30 arriving Eisenach Sat. at 8:30....

Left July 15th at eleven for Frankfurt arriving at 6:30....

Mon. July 17th left Frankfurt at 8:40....Arrived at Wiesbaden at 10:00 AM.... Left again at 5:00 PM for Rudesheim....went to our hotel (Lill)[or Till?].....

Wed.19. Left at nine o'clock took the steamer for Bingen, then the train for Ingelheim. From Ing. we walked to Ober.[ditto mark for Ingelheim] a lovely walk. Here we began to wonder how we

would find our kinfolks. We did [not] have long to go when on the second corner we saw a sign (George Mueller). We of course walked in introduced ourselves as Mrs. & Miss Mayer who came from Texas to bring message. Aunt believed every word and so did Uncle who came in later.... After 2 hrs stay and we started to leave we finally gave in when mama said "Ich bin Louisa." I thought Aunt would drop.... Later we walked over to Cousin Hermina's house. Hermina is a beautiful woman has a handsome husband and two children a girl Elsa and a boy George. Mr. Maurer (Hermina husband) took us through his wine cellar and house.... Cousin Eliza lives in Mainz married 10 years have no children was sorry could not see her....

Next day July 20th we left at nine [i.e., from Rudesheim, HM] took a steamer and rode 2 1/2 hrs up [downstream, or north] the river Rhein. This is a trip I will never forget.... We rode as far as Probbard(?) [Boppard?]... back to Rudesheim... at 8:00....

Next day Friday morn we rested-up and rode [sic] letters. After dinner we made again the trip to Muellers. It was a pleasant [day] only sad as we had to tell all about U. Robert's death. [Robert Mueller, brother of J. C., had been a suicide the year before. HM]

Next day Saturday we left 10:22 for Frankfurt arriving there at 12:20... arriving in E. [Eisenach] 10:35....

Tues. Aug. 1. We packed up and sat around and talked poor Aunt she cried all day long, as this was to be our last day in Stedtfeld. At 6:30 we left for the train for Hoechel [?]. Arrived at Bremen 11:30 Aug. 2....

Aug. 3. we arose early got ready and left on the 9:40 for Bremerhaven.... The S. S. Köln left promptly at twelf....

Aug. 9....We are not so pleased as on *Wittekind* [apparently the boat they went over on. HM]....

Reached Baltimore Aug. 17 Thurs. morn about 6 o'clock.... left for Washington.... Left at 7 o'clock for Baltimore arriving at Locust Point where Köln was anchored....

(Fri. Aug. 18, Baltimore)....

Sat. Aug. 19 arose early to see the boat leave Baltimore which was 6 o'clock.... Arrived home safe & sound Aug. 27 finding everyone at home well with lots of good surprises.... Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Harder, and Mr. Kehl met us at Galveston. We took a train that same eve. for home, so ended our beautiful and

never forgotten voyage across the Atlantic and sightseeing in the old country.

Otillie L. Mueller

Aug. 27th 1905

In the same diary, notes on trip to New York, July 4th, 1910, by train to Houston, New Orleans, departing on July 6, via Creole for New York with 160 passengers. July 11, landed at New York City, five days en route. Prince George Hotel [Louise Mueller, R. G., Laura, & Tillie]. Went to Newark to see Uncle Henry, found out he had sold business a year ago. Tried to locate Aunt Annie, gave up. Found Laura's grandmother in upper New York. Notes end with July 12 entry.

AS OF 3/10/1989